

Nadler
Peterson (FL)
Porter
Pryce
Radanovich

Rangel
Rush
Stokes
Taylor (NC)
Thompson

Thornton
Torricelli
Walker
Waters

□ 1810

The Clerk announced the following pair:

On this vote:

Mr. Radanovich and Mr. Rangel for, with Mr. Dellums against.

Ms. KAPTUR changed her vote from "aye" to "present."

Mr. MINGE changed his vote from "present" to "no."

Ms. MCKINNEY changed her vote from "no" to "aye."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States is committed to military stability in the Taiwan Strait and the United States should assist in defending the Republic of China (also known as Taiwan) in the event of invasion, missile attack, or blockade by the People's Republic of China."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, during votes on Tuesday, March 19, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district attending to pressing business.

Had I been present for those votes, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 384, "yes" on H.R. 2937, and "yes" on House Concurrent Resolution 148.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, due to the primary elections held today in Illinois I was unavoidably detained and missed several rollcall votes. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present in the House, I would have voted in favor of House Resolution 384, rollcall vote 68, a resolution which provides for the consideration of H.R. 2202, the Immigration in the National Interest Act. House Resolution 384 makes in order 32 amendments which may be offered during consideration of H.R. 2202.

I would also have voted in favor of H.R. 2937 rollcall vote 69, a bill to authorize sufficient funds to reimburse former White House Travel Office employees for legal expenses resulting from the termination of their employment on May 19, 1993.

Last, I would also have voted in support of House Concurrent Resolution 148 rollcall vote 70, a resolution which expresses the sense of the Congress that the United States is committed to military stability in the Taiwan Straits and to the military defense of Taiwan. In addition, the resolution declares that the United States, in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act, should assist Taiwan in defending it-

self against invasion, missile attack, or naval blockade by the People's Republic of China.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was unavoidably detained because the 1-hour flight from New York took 4. I consequently missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present for rollcall No. 68 on the previous question, I would have voted "no"; had I been present for rollcall No. 69 on the Travel Office Reimbursement, I would have voted "yes"; had I been present for rollcall No. 70, the Defense of Taiwan Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, due to weather conditions, my plane could not land and I was unavoidably detained and did not cast my vote on rollcall votes numbered 68, 69, and 70.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 68, the rule on the Immigration in the National Interest Act of 1995; "yes" on rollcall vote 69, H.R. 2937, reimbursement of Former White House Travel Office employees; and "yes" on rollcall vote 70, House Concurrent Resolution 148, a sense of the congress regarding military stability in the Taiwan Strait and the defense of Taiwan."

IMMIGRATION IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 384 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2202.

□ 1813

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2202) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States, and for other purposes with Mr. BONILLA in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] will be recognized for 60 minutes, and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] will be recognized for 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH].

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would like first to thank the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], for his generous support along the way. It is he who has been captain of the ship, and it is his steady hand at the helm who has brought us to these shores tonight.

□ 1815

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration for yielding me time, and I am pleased to speak here on this very important issue.

Mr. Chairman, immigration reform is one of the most important legislative priorities facing the 104th Congress. Today, undocumented aliens surreptitiously cross our border with impunity. Still others enter as nonimmigrants with temporary legal status, but often stay on indefinitely and illegally. The INS administrative and adjudicatory processes are a confusing, inefficient bureaucratic maze, resulting in crippling delays in decisionmaking. The easy availability of fraudulent documents frustrates honest employers, who seek to prevent the employment of persons not authorized to work in the United States. Unfortunately, the result of illicit job prospects only serves as a magnet to further illegal immigration. Clearly, we face a multifaceted breakdown of immigration law enforcement that requires our urgent attention.

The 104th Congress can make an unprecedented contribution to the prevention of illegal immigration as long as we have the will to act. H.R. 2202 provides for substantially enhanced border and interior enforcement, greater deterrence to immigration-related crimes, more effective mechanisms for denying employment to undocumented aliens, broader prohibitions on the receipt of public benefits by individuals lacking legal status, and expeditious removal of persons not legally present in the United States.

The Committee on the Judiciary, recognizing that issues involving illegal and legal migration are closely intertwined, approved a bill that takes a comprehensive approach to reforming immigration law. Today, we create unfulfillable expectations by accepting far more immigration applications than we can accommodate—resulting in backlogs numbering in the millions and waiting periods of many years. We simply need to give greater priority to unifying nuclear families, which is a priority of H.R. 2202.

In addressing family immigration, the Judiciary Committee recognized